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Abstract

A process for altering the properties of a cell or cell membrane involves the contacting of the cell or cellular membrane with a lipid-modified protein under conditions wherein the lipid portions anchor themselves to the cellular membrane and position the protein portion of the molecule so that it imparts to the cell or cell membrane one or more new characteristics resulting from the introduction of the protein. Recombinant and cell-free methods for synthesis of the lipid- modified protein are taught as are kits for altering the properties of cell and/or cell membranes.